

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03813 280932Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 SP-02 L-03  
PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /064 W  
-----124366 281229Z /53

R 280730Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1238  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3813

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, ECIN, NG  
SUBJECT: NIGER RIVER COMMISSION

REF: NIAMEY 269 (NOTAL)

1. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE  
IF I AND IAD DIRECTOR JAY JOHNSON COULD MEET WITH HIM TO  
DISCUSS THE STATUS AND PROGRAM OF THE NIGER RIVER COMMISSION.  
THIS REQUEST WAS MOTIVATED BY RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDP  
REP IN NIGER AS WELL AS CABLE FROM DOO KINGUE, DIR. OF UNDP  
AFRICA REGION, INDICATING RELUCTANCE TO CONSIDER FINANCING  
THE HYDROLOGICAL FORECASTING SUB-PROJECT IN ADVANCE OF  
AND SEPARATE FROM THE ACTION PROGRAM. I INDICATED TO THE  
FONMIN THAT US OFFER OF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03813 280932Z

THROUGH USAID (1.35 MILLION DOLLARS) COULD POSSIBLY BE  
LOST TO THE COMMISSION BY THE END OF THE CURRENT FISCAL  
YEAR UNLESS THERE WERE POSITIVE SIGNS OF REVITALIZATIONWLF THE  
COMMISSION AND ITS PROGRAMS.

2. FONMIN EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE INERT  
COMMISSION SAYING THAT AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED THE

COMMISSION COULD NOT PERFORM ITS WORK. HE CONTINUED THAT THERE ARE ONLY FOUR STATES AND PERHAPS JUST THREE WHO HAVE ANY REAL CURRENT INTEREST IN THE NIGER RIVER BASIN. HE QUESTIONED GUINEA ALTHOUGH IT IS THE SOURCE OF THE NIGER, AND EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATION ABOUT GIVING ITS INTEREST A WEIGHT EQUAL TO THAT OF NIGER, MALI AND NIGERIA. HE SAID THAT LT. 9). SYENI KOUNTCHE, THE CHIEF OF STATE, WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMISSION AND PLANNED TO CONVOKE A MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. DJERMAKOYE SAID HE WOULD TALK TO KOUNTCHE WHO REPORTEDLY IS SPENDING RAMADAN AT HIS HOME VILLAGE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CHIEF OF STATE HIMSELF MIGHT WISH TO CONVOKE ME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

3. COMMENT: KOUNTCHE HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE INACTIVITY OF THE NIGER RIVER COMMISSION AND EXPLICITLY ASSIGNED ITS IMPOTENCE TO THE INCLUSION OF FIVE DISINTERESTED STATES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION, I.E. COMEROON, UPPER VOLTA, BENIN, CHAD AND IVORY COAST. IN ADDITION, IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT A NUMBER OF STATES, INCLUDING NIGER, INTENSELY DISLIKE A.E. DEHINDE, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME WHO CLAIM THAT THE REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE COMMISSION IS DUE TO DISAFFECTION WITH DEHINDE, THE MORE LIKELY REASON IS THAT THE STATES DO NOT PERCEIVE ANY REAL BENEFIT FLOWING TO THEM FROM THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NIAMEY 03813 280932Z

AND CONSEQUENTLY DO NOT ATTEND MEETINGS OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE BUDGET.

4. A FEW MONTHS AGO KOUNTCHE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE COMMISSION AND TOLD ME THAT IN CONVERSATION WITH OBASANJO THE NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE AGREED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE INTERESTED STATES TO TAKE ACTION AND THEREFORE THAT HE PLANNED TO CONVOKE THE HEADS OF STATE FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION (SEE REFTEL). NOW IT IS BELIEVED THAT OBASANJO'S PREOCCUPATION WITH REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA HAS DISTRACTED HIM. KOUNTCHE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS CHAMPING AT THE BIT BECAUSE NIGER IS ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP A MOMENTUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KANKAJI DAM AND IT REALIZES THAT THIS CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT POLITICAL RISK UNLESS IT IS INCORPORATED IN THE PLANNING PROGRAM OF THE COMMISSION. JAMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RIVERS, COMMISSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NIAEMEY03813  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780350-1303  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NIAEMEY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780817/aaaaaojy.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5d16f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 NIAEMEY 269  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1602803  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIGER RIVER COMMISSION  
**TAGS:** PORG, ECIN, NG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5d16f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014